

SOMETHING.

EDITED

BY NEMO NOBODY, ESQUIRE.

“’Tis Something.....Nothing.”

No. 6.]

Boston, Saturday, December 23, 1809.

[Vol. I.]

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR OF “SOMETHING.”

FIRST.

SIR,

WITH your first and second number I was satisfied, and therefore I subscribed ; your third did not please me much, and your fourth less— I wish you would take a hint not to be too serious.

Your’s,

A.

SECOND.

MR. EDITOR,

YOUR third number pleased me much, but your first and second appeared trifling ; if you would attach yourself more to serious subjects you would succeed better.

Your’s,

B.

THIRD.

SIR,

YOUR attention to the theatre has already produced some good, pray let us have more about it in your next.

Your’s,

C.

FOURTH.

MR. NEMO,

I never attend the theatre, and therefore care nothing about it ; pray don’t fill your paper with observations that nobody understands.

Your’s,

D.

FIFTH.

MR. NOBODY,

SOMEBODY is offended with you every week ; if you would flatter every body you would have more friends.

Your’s,

E.

SIXTH.

SIR,

CONTINUE to act from a sense of right, and you will at least be rewarded by the feelings of

F.

WE cannot at present go further into the alphabet of public opinion, and the omega we trust is yet far off.

SOME say that our wit is not comprehended;—we engage not to furnish *understanding*.

LET us see—is a common request. It were well if all who were *permitted* to see—*would* see.

By the bye—Some antideluvian sent us last week a complaint, or something that he appears to have intended as such, respecting the entertainment given at the Coffee House.—We admit nothing but what we know or believe to be true. Every inquiry we have made has furnished us with the answer we expected—that all was as it should have been.—If any person was refused admission to the ball room, he must of course be incompetent to judge of *what took place* in the society from which he was excluded.

SOCIAL BALLS.

Whence arises the *necessity* of inserting in the regulations of a ball, that no person shall smoke cigars in the assembly room?—Are we not the most enlightened nation upon earth? no person dare deny it; for Congress has so decreed.

SUBSCRIPTION BALLS.

In the regulations of our *subscription* balls, cigars are more extensively banished, for in them we are told they must not be smoked—even in the house.

And also—that no *person* (the original word we believe to be *gentleman*) can be admitted in pantaloons or boots.

PLEASE EVERY BODY.

LIKE the old man in the fable we have got *on* our ass and *off* our ass, and we have *carried* our ass. Now the only thing we wish not to be forced to do is—to *drown* our ass.

THOUGH some *absent* persons may have complained of the want of table *cloths* at a late cold collation, they who were *present* found the tables *well covered*.

PICK POCKETS.

PICKPOCKETS have lately made their essays with some success, at our theatre.—We propose, that when any loss is sustained, the doors should be closed immediately, but with caution; no honest man would wish to withdraw when the pursuit of villany is on foot. Let us check vices in their bud, or they will blossom too fragrantly upon us.

MASQUERADE.

WE should be sorry to interfere with the attempt of any individual to gain an *honest* income— but our sense of duty, as advocates for public good, compels us to advise all friends to private or general virtue, to repel every endeavour to introduce public masquerades to this town—we are already bad enough—let us not therefore encourage entertainments that will make us worse.

We hope the plan proposed will be, at least, postponed.

Give us vice enough and we shall be prepared for slavery ; preserve our virtues and our steady habits, and we may still be independent.

TO THE HONOURABLE THE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL
COURT, ABOUT TO BE ASSEMBLED.

Gentlemen,

THE presumption that may be attached to our boldness in addressing you, will, as we hope, be in some degree palliated by our desire to do good.

A petition is soon, as we understand, to be presented to your honourable body, praying relief in cases of insolvency ; we have declined even seeing the petition, that our opinions on the subject might be free from bias, and simply the result of contemplation.

We never have been, and never shall be, the advocates of idleness, indolence, or fraud ; and consequently must be opposed to every system that tends to introduce rather than correct them ; but we must say that, as we think, the effects of our present laws respecting creditor and debtor tend to produce all.—It is not every mind that has firmness enough to endure with fortitude the shock of misfortune ; nor is it every mind that has virtue enough *after* misfortune to resist such temptations as are offered as consolations to wretchedness, but which are the forerunners of every vice.—The equal punishment of the unfortunate and the fraudulent drives many an honest man to deeds of desperation, and the power placed in the hand of one individual spurred on by the obstinacy of mistaken opinion, by resentment, or avarice, may, by the right which now a few dollars can purchase, plunge a whole family into the abyss of misery, and restrain the hand of the principal sufferer from doing justice to himself and others. We know that frauds are practised, but we believe that our present system of laws respecting debtor and creditor tend more to the introduction of them, than the original feelings of the individual who commits them. We should not have been thus bold in our assertions if our mind had not dared at the same time to suggest a remedy.

We think that misfortune and fraud are not so necessarily connected as to be incapable of separate existence ; and although we subscribe generally to Dr. Young's opinion, that

"Look into those they call unfortunate,

"And closer view'd you'll find they are to blame ;"

Yet may men be to blame for failings that deserve not the punishment due to vice.—And while the best of us are frail, let us in charity make some allowance for the frailties of others, and propose something that will better reconcile the legal authority of man to the will of heaven.

As we know not that any thing we are about taking the liberty of suggesting has been yet proposed, we think it necessary in the first place to declare, that our intentions are founded on a belief of the practicability,

1st. Of making a distinction between misfortune and fraud—and that distinction once made, justice can do all the rest.

2ndly. Of preventing fraud by removing its cause—the fear of entire and immediate ruin from one unfortunate occurrence.—We would prevent despair, and inspire industry.

3dly. Of preventing private conveyances, and doing general justice.

On these principles let us suppose a court founded, composed of justices of the peace, with the sheriff of the county as the presiding officer, or others of acknowledged integrity, called or forming a court of equity or conscience ; not to determine debts, but to have cognizance only of debts acknowledged or decided.

Let us imagine such a court established, with discretionary powers to act in all cases on principles of justice ; their decisions however subject to appeal to the supreme court.

We will next suppose a few cases as brought before them. First,

A creditor appears who has obtained judgment in other courts against his debtor, but the debtor has refused payment—the debt is of course due—the debtor is summoned, he meets his creditor, produces his books and papers to the court ; every thing appears fair and open, but circumstances which he could not control, have removed his present ability—his only crime perhaps, confidence in public and chartered institutions. Should any individual have it in his power to send such a man to prison, and drive his sons to beggary or robbery, his wife and daughters to pollution for existence ? Oh no. Such a court as we propose would say to the creditor—this man is honest, but he has been unfortunate ; you must not distress him, you must be patient and wait for your money, and if you yourself should be distressed thereby, you shall experience the same protection on application to our court. Second,

Let us next suppose an opposite case—a debtor summoned by his creditor appears ; he has no books, or if he has they are concealed, he is proved to have obtained money on false pretensions, he has been fraudulent and dishonest, he has misused the property of others, he has knowingly and intentionally distressed the widow and the orphan—such a man, such a court would have the power of punishing as he deserved. Third case,

A person loses a vessel at sea, a house or his goods by fire, he feels himself in consequence liable to fail ; he places himself under the protection of this court, lest all that he has left should be secured by attachment to one man, and his other creditors have nothing.—The court sends its summons to his creditors ; they appear ; the court examines the amount of what is left, leaves what is necessary to the unfortunate debtor to recommence business, gives what ought to be given *equally* to the creditors, and then restrains them from making further demands until stated times, when industry may have enabled the debtor to discharge them. Fourth case,

A person from disappointments or other circumstances is obliged to let his note remain unpaid in the bank—a suspicion is immediately spread of his instability—one who thinks more of his own interest than general justice, sends an attachment on his house or goods—the consequence of which is, that he who might under the influence of such a court as proposed have paid every farthing that was due to all, is forced to such sacrifices as oblige him at last to compound for four or five shillings in the pound. (*To be continued.*)

Theatre, Friday, Dec. 15th, 1809.

ROMEO AND JULIET, AND THE VILLAGE LAWYER.

THE greater part of our readers must be so well acquainted with this play as to render any thing we could say about it in our number unnecessary.—But there was in the performance of it this evening some things, that no admirer of the drama that has any pretensions to taste *could* pass by unnoticed—the most striking features of entertainment exhibited this evening were most ostensibly and feelingly those presented by Mr. Mills and Mrs. Darley. We wished that Mr. Cooper had given us, as before, a pleasurable opportunity, of acknowledging the exemplification of his talents ; but this night there was “a falling off *in-deed*.”

Of Mr. Mills' Mercutio, were we inclined to flatter, we think that we could not say too much.—There has been much dispute respecting the proper manner of performing this character ; it has been attempted

in opposite styles, the serious and the comic, and it has hitherto been an undecided point in which it should be performed. We know not that Mr. Mills had any intention of deciding this dispute, but in our opinion, he *did* decide it effectually, by adopting the happy medium—the gentleman—the *polished* gentleman decorated the wit, and the feelings of honour were delivered from feeling; we thank him in the name of decency for *justifiable* omissions, and every tribute *we* can give to correctness of conception, elegance of action, and effectual execution are his on *this* occasion, with all our heart.

Of Mrs. Darley, in Juliet, we cannot say more; but we will say as much. We have before admired this lady's happy intelligence of Shakespeare's characters—her pretty face and harmonious tones are nature's gift—we praise her not for them;—but for the just *application* of them, dictated by an energy of mind, we *will* praise her till Shakespeare himself shall rise up from his grave to tell us we are wrong.

Mr. Dickenson.—We have our doubts respecting the propriety of his performance of the character of Peter—but custom offers him a shield.—His performance of the Apothecary entitles him in our estimation to the highest credit, for *there* was all feeling, and consequently no buffoonery.

Mr. Johnston.—There is a something with which we are not acquainted that occasions a great variation in the performances of this gentleman; it may be a misappropriation of characters. In the character of Henry the sixth we indulged our desire to praise, we can now do the same with regard to his performance of the Friar, but we think that his utterance was too much hurried.

“They stumble who run fast.”

We would also recommend to this gentleman, an external head equipment more appropriate to an old character.—The more actors can accommodate their personal appearance to the characters they represent, the less difficulty will the audience have in supposing them to be what they wish to appear.

We witnessed with great satisfaction the performance of the nurse by Mrs. Barnes, because it was natural; the extravagancies usually introduced in this character were properly omitted.

We have seldom heard or seen the dirge executed in a more affecting or appropriate style.

MR. WARRELL.

WE were forced to omit the last week what we thought a deserved tribute to Mr. Warrell, the painter and mechanist of the Theatre.—Peo-

ple are apt to see and admire, without reflecting to *whom* they are indebted for their pleasure; but wherever *we* discover industry, talents or genius, and especially when we find them all united, we will do every thing in our power to present them face to face to the public.—It is not only a *new* scene that we ought to admire, but the talent and genius that can connect diversity with economy; this we have seen exhibited in Adelgitha. Independent of general changes, there is one scene almost new, which has always had, as it deserved, a general applause; we wish the public hereafter not to forget that they have experienced some pleasure from its effects.

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Theatre, Monday, Dec. 18th, 1809.

OTHELLO, AND HUNT THE SLIPPER.

MR. MILLS appeared this evening in the dress of Othello, and Mr. Cooper performed Iago.

We are conscious that the labours of Mr. Mills must necessarily be great; we give him every deserved credit for industry and exertion, and we admire his talents when with them is connected that adequate knowledge of his part, without which the greatest genius must be eclipsed.

We hope that the public will make allowances for premature exertions, while *we* on our part judge principally from what we see.

We shall ever consider a complete commitment of the part to memory as an indispensable requisite in all claims to general approbation. Particular instances of good acting and correct delivery may occur, but occasional excellences will not obtain our sanction to the performance of a whole character. We believe that the talents of Mr. Mills are equal to the just conception and exhibition of Othello, but much study must yet be added before he can become master of it.

An elegant and appropriate performance of many *parts* of scenes appeared to justify this opinion; and to this we can only add a wish, that we could have approved the whole, with a hope that a *future* performance of it may give us the opportunity.

There is however much to be pleaded in behalf of all the performers this evening, and particularly in behalf of Mr. Mills, this being his first performance of so arduous a character in Boston. The shameful and disgraceful outrages on decency that are still submitted to by an insulted audience, must ever be to that audience a palliative, if not an indemnification of the incorrectness of an exhibition.

Of this and other indecorous behaviour we shall say more anon.

We think that (excepting a few instances of deficiency, for which the cause of the above remarks will amply plead extenuation,) Mr. Cooper's performance of Iago was, in conception, style, and execution, superior to any exhibition we have before witnessed. The character of Iago we conceive to be infinitely more difficult to a performer than that of Othello; and although the just exhibition of it may not strike so generally or pleasingly as that of Othello, the comparative merit of two actors judged solely by an equally just exhibition, the one of Othello and the other of Iago, must be estimated in favour of the latter. We have seen this character of Iago so *villanously* performed, as to stagger some opinions respecting Othello, who only is

"Of a free and open nature,

"That thinks men honest that but seem to be so."

They who have so performed this character throughout, appeared to have had but little knowledge of the "Divinity of Hell," or if so, to have forgot that,

"When Devils will their blackest sins put on,

"They do suggest at first with *heavenly* shew,"

As should Iago. Iago's villany is not suspected till the catastrophe; and why? but because he has always worn the face and shew of honesty to others.

Mr. Bernard approached nearer to the Venetian gentleman, ~~than~~ on a former occasion, and we contemplated the improvement with much pleasure; we hope however to live to see the character of Roderigo performed.

To Mrs. Mills we would recommend the consideration that Emilia does not mean to infer that she dares to wager that Desdemona is honest; but that she *would* dare, if it was a matter to be decided by a wager, to stake her soul for her honesty.

"I durst, my lord—to wager she is honest,

"Lay down my soul at stake."

CONSTABLES.

From the Repertory, Dec. 19th.

WANTED to attend the *green boxes* of the theatre, a constable who is *able* and *willing* to do his duty. To such a one good pay will be given. Apply at the theatre.

WE republish the above, not with a view or pretence of giving it greater circulation, but to exhibit to the public a desire of the managers to do *their* duty, if they can find any constable who is able and willing to do *his* duty; suitable rewards are offered—if therefore such a constable is to be met with, we may hereafter expect some degree of decency

in outward deportment in the green boxes—but if we find that such a constable is *not* to be met with, the blame will no longer attach to the managers, and we shall endeavour to trace it to its original source, be it where it may; and to

———“Find out the cause of this effect,

“Or rather say the cause of this defect,

“For this effect defective, comes by cause,”

We should however be inclined to think that the defect arises rather from the unwillingness than the inability; and this unwillingness may be produced by the fear of not being properly supported by the public in the execution of their duty; this being the case, the blame attaches itself to the public, and an inference must then be drawn that the public are more inclined to encourage vice than virtue, by familiarizing the most abandoned conduct and expressions to the eyes and ears of their wives, daughters, and sisters.

At present we believe there is no theatre in the world where the ladies, old and young, and even fashionable, deport themselves in so delicate and honourable a manner as in the theatre of Boston; such conduct calls silently but impressively on all the honourable part of male society for sanction and protection; but we are sorry to find that they do not experience them from the gentlemen. It is allowed on all sides that the theatre has a powerful effect on public morals—that effect will be good, or bad as the public decide—if they mean that its prominent feature should be that of a brothel; for the sake of virtue and humanity let us keep our wives and daughters from it; if we intend it as a school of improvement, as it may be made in pronunciation, language, and morality, let us protect our wives and daughters while attending it. The rioter who deprives a thousand persons of a fourth part of their pleasure, robs them of the fourth part of the money they have paid; and should be treated as a robber; he has no longer a right to his customary or purchased rank. All laws would justify a constable in removing such a man from the society in which he can only be considered as an intruder, and every man who wishes well to his country or regards the honour of his town would assist a constable in his execution of established justice.

It is not by turning every face in the Pit or Boxes towards the lower gallery that decency can be advanced there—such conduct alone only proves the feebleness of inclined opposition and excites a more audacious daring in the offenders—the honourable part of the audience must rise at once, the constables must be ordered to do their duty, and the public, if the majority should prove in favour of virtue and morality, must assist them in the abolition of practices that would be no where else endured.

Tuesday, Dec. 19th, 1809.

THE REVENGE, AND TEKELI.

THIS tragedy, which is evidently founded on the base of Shakespeare's Othello, was written by Dr. Young, with a view, as it is supposed, of giving to the character of Zanga some more apparently justifiable cause, for the villany he commits. Dr. Young was an excellent moralist in the closet, and endeavoured sedulously to make men what they should be, from the effects of his labours in their cause.—Shakespeare took men as they were, and by exhibiting themselves to themselves, shewed them in glowing colours the natural effects of common infirmities.

We have had the honour of delivering several times in the college hall at Philadelphia, a parallel between the characters of Iago and Zanga. We have since lost the manuscript—and as our observations on this occasion must necessarily be short, we will content ourselves at present with drawing a general but concise outline of the two characters, and leave the rest to be filled up by the contemplations of those to whom the subject may prove amusing.

Dr. Young has derived the causes of Zanga's conduct from the noblest feelings of the heart—the love for his slain father, the adoration of his country, the disgrace of having been chained for fighting in its cause, an anxious sympathy for his conquered countrymen; and lastly, his resentment at the indignity of a blow. Zanga, too, was a man (as represented)

“Whom armies followed and a people loved.”

Such a man would, perhaps, *naturally* seek revenge on the causer of all these wrongs—but the question is whether, *such* a man would naturally seek *such* means.

Let us next in a brief manner examine the exciting causes of Iago's conduct. It originates from hypocrisy in alliance, the sordid lust for wealth disgracefully obtained, a mean jealousy of Cassio's preferment, a base suspicion of his wife's honour. Such a man was ripe, as introduced, for deeds of darkness and of murder.

Which poet has more closely followed nature?

We witnessed only the first act of this play and part of the last; our engagements were elsewhere in the interval.

Of Tekeli and the performance of it we would again speak highly, had we time and room.

We will only recommend to Mr. Bernard, jun. a more respectful conduct in future to the Queen of Hungary; his rank, his embassy, and his character as an officer, and consequently, a gentleman, required, at least, *politeness*.

"Mos pro lege est."

THE managers publicly, at least, impliedly agree to play only three times a week. The remaining evenings, in compliance with their regulations, are selected by other meritorious characters for their exhibitions. Every public votary has a claim to a fair chance; but they, who depending on there being no theatrical exhibition on the evenings on which they have advertised their performances, are injured by an innovation of this nature, and injured, in our opinion, unjustly.

MR. OGILVIE.

Tuesday, Dec. 19, 1809.

ORATION ON WAR.

HAD we attended Mr. Ogilvie this evening solely for our own gratification, we should have retired perfectly satisfied with the delivery of a composition that entertained us. But in our character as editors, and thereby bound to deliver candidly and generously (for we must be candid and generous to the public as well as to individuals) we are obliged to search more deeply, and to discover if possible what is to be found at the bottom.—We were promised an "*oration*." Now in our opinion (avoiding technical terms) an oration should have a beginning, a middle, and an end; and these three parts should be so intimately connected, as not only to form one whole, but they should be so naturally combined as to excite the attention at first directed to the head, interestingly to the body and the feet; till the mind at last conceives a perfect whole.

The first literary, with other equally respectable characters in Boston, attend Mr. Ogilvie's orations—if we do him wrong, let it be proved—if any thing we observe is controvertible, let it be controverted—we are single; he has (apparently at least) the host of critics in his favour.

We will boldly place our *honesty* of decision against any arguments they can advance.—We expect all the low insinuations of jealousy, enmity, and rivalry that will be imputed to us—but we will undauntedly declare that opinion which is the result, as we think, of an unbiassed judgment on this, as on every other occasion.

The oration was on war, but "*cui bono*?" To tell us that the consequences of war were the slaughter of individuals or thousands? our daily newspapers prove that.

Was it to make us believe that war was only to be introduced by five qualifying causes, and that the origin of war was superstition?

Was it to unnerve the strength of a nation, and relax the arm of the officer by telling him that his only object was to commit murder?

"Credat Judæus."

If we can judge of officers by those we have the honour of being acquainted with, their first object is their country's good—their second, mercy.

The fact is, that war, like duelling, is an inevitable evil—they both have their origin in the depravity of the human heart, whatever other passions that depravity may lead to; but we fear those passions are more in number than “five” in both cases.

We regret that Mr. Ogilvie employs his talents on such subjects, unless his object be only temporary emolument, and *then* we could only congratulate his purse.

We admired his oration on the Athenæum, for that *was* an oration; we were pleased with his lectures on Education and Suicide, for we believe they have affected moral good—but an attempt to dissuade an honourable nation from going to war, if its government sees just cause for it, by telling the citizens that they may be killed in consequence of it, or that they themselves may be obliged to commit “murder,” is doctrine to which even “honour” however “*evanescent*” could not submit.

“A little flattery sometimes does well.”

The composition was some how or other wound up with an intended compliment to the Americans. They whose fathers had fought for and obtained by *war* their independence, could not have been much flattered by its sincerity.

The quotation from lord Hastings was very unappropriately introduced, as relating to wars in general—*his* remarks were applicable only to *civil* wars.

We think in general, that Mr. Ogilvie introduces too many quotations.

We were at a loss to reconcile Mr. Ogilvie's observation, that enlightened nations always preserved their freedom, with the present extent of the French empire; or to comprehend why a nation, having once obtained its freedom, should not afterwards be liable to subjugation.—We also felt some difficulty in comprehending how wars were always attended with disadvantages to all nations, when we reflected on the respective states of England and Holland at this time and on those in which they stood one hundred years ago.

We shall now perhaps be told that we are endeavouring to lessen the credit attached to Mr. Ogilvie's talents; we say that we are only judging the misapplication or feeble exertion of them on particular occasions.

Quandoq bonus dormitat Homerus.

TO NEMO NOBODY, ESQ.

IN your No. 5, of Saturday 16th inst. I observed an address to your Roxbury neighbours on the subject of mendicants, infesting our neigh-

bourhood. "Who they are? Whether they be really objects of charity, or only pretendedly poor, that they may travel at other persons' expense? Whether it be deceit or poverty, that brings them to our houses," &c. an application is made to the *minister* for information, and such information is said to be "expected."

It is true that within a fortnight past, an unusual number of beggars have made their appearance amongst us; though scarcely a week passes without more or less applications for charity. Who these persons are, is as great a secret to your neighbours, as to yourself. Most of them are foreigners, who have transported themselves to the capitol, and at this season of the year *particularly*, live by begging. To afford them food or raiment, when hungry or naked, cannot be "to encourage vice." To give them money, however, is no charity; for they generally apply it to the purposes of intoxication. These persons commonly resort to *handsome* dwellings in Boston and its vicinity; because, *there they expect* to meet with persons, whose affluence enables them to contribute to their aid.

I will venture, however, to say, that no neighbour of our's ever sends them to such houses; and that they who reside in them, do not direct them to the houses of any others'. The writer of this reply has had frequent occasion to draw upon the charity of his "rich neighbours," for objects, whom he has known to be deserving, and needing relief; and in no instance did he ever apply in vain. He has often received more than asked for, but on no occasion does he ever recollect being mortified by a refusal. Amongst others in less affluent circumstances he has often had the pleasure to observe a disposition equally benevolent, and acts equally generous, according to their abilities. The inhabitants of Roxbury, whatever be their defects, and, doubtless, with the rest of mankind, they have their defects, can never be *justly* charged with a deficiency of benevolent feelings, or actions. If they do err, it certainly, is not on the side of *niggardness*. For them to erect "an establishment for the provision of supper, lodging, &c. for travelling paupers," would be *only* to invite into their neighbourhood a horde of vagrants, who would probably make their benefactors the first objects of their depredations. There is, already, an asylum for all the poor of the town, where every accommodation that humanity or benevolence can suggest, is amply provided; and where any person from *another* town, who can show himself a proper object of such indulgence, will receive equal attentions, till he can be safely transported to the care of his own. This establishment is not *very* dissimilar from the one you propose.

I would by no means, question the benevolent intention of your inquiries; but could have wished, however, they had been made in private, instead of the public vehicle, in which you have chosen to convey them.

You could easily have been satisfied, I think, that no neighbour ever directed these persons to your house; but that they found out your house of themselves, and were probably drawn to it, no less from its appearance *without* than for its hospitality *within*. And far less is it supposeable, that any one who has the least knowledge of your literary character could have applied to you, or to your's, the epithet of a *fool*. If you knew us better, you would think more highly of our dispositions and understandings, than to suppose *us* capable of such injustice and folly.

As it is presumed, that motives of benevolence induced you to insert the piece alluded to, the same motive, I doubt not, in justice to your neighbours, of whom your readers may have received erroneous impressions, will induce you to publish this reply.

T. G.

Jamaica Plain, Dec. 19, 1809.

Somewhere, Dec. 12th, 1809.

MR. NOBODY,

Dear Sir—Having *nothing* to do, and consequently wishing for SOMETHING to *amuse* me; WHICH, you know, is always found among the CLASSICS, I took up Catullus, in which I found the enclosed *jeu d'esprit*; which, together with an Imitation, I send you for publication. If you find errors in the attempted imitation, you will please to recollect the scriptural authority we have for saying "NOBODY IS PERFECT;" and of course it will occur to you, that *perfection* can be expected in the *Works* of "NOBODY."

AD FABULLUM.

COENABIS bene, mî Fabulle, apud me
 Paucis, si Dî favent, diebus;
 Si tecum attuleris bonam atque magnam
 Coenam, non sine candidâ puellâ
 Et vino, et sale, et omnibus cachinnis;
 Haec si, inquam, tuleris, venuste noster,
 Coenabis bene: nam tui Catulli
 Plenus sacculus est araneorum.
 Sed contrâ, accipies meros amores,
 Seu quid suavius, elegantius-ve est;
 Nam unguentum dabo, quod meae puellae
 Donârunt veneres, Cupidinesque:
 Quod tecum olfacies, Deos rogabis,
 Totum ut te faciant, Fabulle *nasum*.

IMITATION.

My dear Fabullus, pray you be,
 A few nights hence, to sup with me.

Observe my tempting "bill of fare ;"
 See what the luscious items are :
 Eggs and oysters, fowl and fish ;
 In short, sir, every fav'rite dish ;
 Ladies and wine, and, friend, I prithee,
 When thou com'st, *bring all these with thee.*
 You stare, Fabullus ; 'tis no jest ;
 You find these *only* ; I the rest :
 For, sir, my larders, pantry, vats,
 And cellar too are full—of rats.
 Nay, don't be angry ; hear me through ;
 Be patient ; "lend an ear," or two.
 I'll give you wine to quaff, by Jove ;
 Nectar itself ; the *wine of love* :
 And then such essence, sir ! your lover
 Will wish she had been *nose all over.*

SOMEBODY.

 Thursday, Dec. 21, 1809.

MASSACHUSETTS CHARITABLE MECHANIC ASSOCIATION.

"I will a plain unvarnished tale unfold."

IF public orations or discourses are intended for public good, their objects are most easily obtained, when such expressions only are adopted as are calculated to make their way immediately to the heart—and such expressions are the "unvarnished" effusions of plain common sense—"worth all the world besides."

The address by Benjamin Russell, Esq. this day, was in our opinion, complete in every thing that should have been delivered on such an occasion, to such an institution. An institution, to the members of which we owe every thing—but flattery. The compass described the circle to which he confined himself ; the level kept him from rising too high ; and the square made all his turns—right angles—and if there was no extraordinary acuteness in them, there was at least no obtusity.

We confess that we were ourselves among the number of those most pleasurably disappointed on this occasion. From the writer we expected much, and *there* we were not disappointed. From the orator we expected less—on future occasions we shall have *reason* to expect more.

To those who may imply a want of grace in Mr. Russell, we shall only observe that he was not the *actor*, but the *man*.

We either have, or usurp, a right to speak freely on all occasions ; but we will take off our shoes before we tread on holy ground—and we therefore only ask Mr. Emerson, if we may not doubt the propriety of the application of the epithet "skilful" to the Creator ?

Mr. Emerson's prayer was as elegant, appropriate, and elaborate, as any we have lately heard; perhaps, he took too much pains. We think that he would have effectually performed his duty, had he compressed his prayer, so as to have demanded only one half the attention, which however was cheerfully bestowed on the whole.

Mr. Stebbins sang, with as much energy as his modesty on the occasion would permit, the appropriate ode by Mr. Snelling. We wish to insert it—but cannot.

To distant Editors of Newspapers.

WE are gratified by your offers to exchange papers with us, but we cannot accept them. We have stomachs that will not be satisfied with news.

ADVERTISEMENT EXTRAORDINARY.

We do not intend generally to advertise productions of any kind, but we think we should be unjust to ourselves, if we did not on this occasion observe that—*On Monday next will be Published*

LOUISA;

A DOMESTIC TALE.

By JAMES FENNELL, N. N. A. S. S. A. B. A. C. A. D. A. E. A. F. & c. & c.

N. B.—This little tale, was intended for this number, but we have prosed so much on one thing and the other that we have no room for poetry.

It has accidentally fallen out, with "Something;" but all our subscribers, readers, & c. may easily make up the quarrel by paying 6 cents, and uniting them.

ANOTHER ADVERTISEMENT.

IN the Press, and on Monday the first of January, will be published by John West & Co.

A NEW-YEAR'S GIFT,

To the Youth of both Sexes, composed of Maxims in easy Rhyme, by JAMES FENNELL.

THE respect due to our Minister at Roxbury has, by the insertion of his letter, obliged us to omit other subjects prepared for this number.

To correspondents we will reply in our next.

OF the elegant entertainment given to the Members of the Mechanic Association, we could have said much had we room—all that we could have said will be understood by saying that it was prepared by Mr. Hamilton.